

## My Tribute to Matt

- Nate Alterio -

Good morning. Thank you everyone for being here today.

If our true character is measured by what we contribute to the lives of others, the compassion we show to those around us and strength we demonstrate during our own greatest challenges, than I confident that today we are remembering the life of one of the finest people most of us will ever know.

Matthew and I were cousins and best friends. Born only a few months apart, we lived only a few blocks from one another. We had a special relationship that we were both very proud of.

We were able to share many things as we grew up together. Most things, especially the mischief, will stay between us forever. I will always cherish the time that Matt and I had together and know how we felt about one another. For that reason I would like to share a little about how he felt about all of you.

To his Sing Sing Family, all of those he worked with, played golf with, neighbors and friends. Know that he valued each of you in his life. Your unique personalities, thoughts, victories and challenges were all important to him. Each of you had a special place in his heart.

To the Alterio Family, the Jobes Family and our close friend Strawn. Never forget that he always felt loved and knew that he had an important place in your family. You showed him the importance of giving and receiving unconditional love which is why it was so easy when he met Mara.

Mara, Matt would often ask me if I thought it was possible for love to grow so much. This was the only time I have ever seen him as no match for his own humor and quick wit. He couldn't always find the words and I enjoyed those conversations very much.

During every month and year and milestone in his life with Mara, he felt his love for her grow more and more. When Noah arrived, I do believe his heart was full. I know that he shared these same feelings with all of you and through those feelings made all of us feel good.

The way Matt lived his life helped me to be better. I can't think of a better gift from a true friend.

There are so many things about him that I will miss.

- The way he always sang my name when he answered my phone calls
- His friendly smile
- The days on the water in his boat
- His constant and unwavering encouragement and support

But of all of those things, it is his friendship that I will miss the most.

Matthew, thank you for all that you have given me. I miss you and I love you.